

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the examiner's thorough examination of the application and consideration of the prior art. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendment and the following remarks.

The examiner has objected to the drawings. Applicant is submitting herewith corrected replacement drawings that include a number of the missing elements cited by the examiner. In addition, appropriate corrections have been made to the specification to correct typographical and clerical errors in the original application. Is respectfully submitted that the drawings and the description are now in acceptable condition.

In response to the examiner's comments, applicant has amended and shortened the abstract.

The examiner has rejected claims 6 and 8 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 6 and 11 of U.S. Patent No. 6,749,405. Applicant is submitting herewith a Terminal Disclaimer pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 3.73(b) along with required fee (\$65). In view of this disclaimer, applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 6 and 8.

The examiner has rejected claims 1, 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Bassine, U.S. Patent No. 5,188,524 in view of Okabe JP 60-060201. Claim 5 has also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Bassine '524 and Okabe '201 and further in view of Bassine U.S. Patent No. 5,968,236. The examiner has indicated that claims 2 and 13 will be allowable if re-written in independent form.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to include all of the features of allowable claim 2. All of the claims dependent on claim 1 now include the features of allowable claim 2. Accordingly, allowance of claim 1, as amended, and the claims dependent thereon is respectfully requested.

By the same token, allowance of the claims dependent upon claims 6 and 8 should now be allowable in view of the terminal disclaimer applicant is submitting herewith.

The examiner has allowed claims 16 and 17.

Each of the examiner's objections and rejections has been addressed and traversed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended are allowable. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes the prior art cited but not relied upon by the examiner.

Applicant is submitting herewith the request for extension of time in the first month and the extension fee (\$60).

If a telephone conference would help to advance the prosecution of this application, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (239) 481-0900.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will E Noonan", written over a horizontal line.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 17th day of April, 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will E Noonan", written over a horizontal line.

William E. Noonan

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement sheets include changes to FIGS. 1 and 3 wherein previously omitted elements 20 (FIG. 1), 66 (FIG. 3) and 190 (FIG. 3) have been added. In addition, formal replacement drawings have submitted for all of the previously filed drawings. These comprise 7 sheets containing 12 drawings FIGS. 1 – 9.